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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12
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/073 W
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P 051119Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7052
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 10914

FROM ODC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, BE
SUBJECT: ALLIED DEFENSE CONTRIBUTIONS

A. JOINT SECSTATE/SECDEF 250235Z MAR 78

1. PRIMARY US DEFENSE ELEMENTS IN BELGIUM CONSIST OF (A) THOSE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO NATO AND SHAPE HQS AND SUB ELEMENTS, (B) A USAF MUNITIONS SQUADRON AT KLEINE BROGEL AB, (C) A US ARMY ELEMENT LOCATED AT HOOGBUEL, (D) THE OFFICE OF DEFENSE COOPERATION (ODC) AND (E) THE DEFENSE ATTACHE STAFF (DAO).

2. IN THE CASE OF 1(A) ABOVE, BI-LATERAL HOST NATION SUPPORT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE, PER SE, BECAUSE OF THE NATO INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING INTRICACIES THAT ARE INVOLVED. THEREFORE WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS AREA FALLS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF STATE 77837.

3. THE 100 MAN USAF MUNITIONS SQUADRON RECEIVES FACILITIES AND SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1960 TECHNICAL ARRANGE-
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MENT BETWEEN THE US AND BELGIUM COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE PINE CONE PROJECT. THESE FACILITIES AND SERVICES INCLUDE ALL ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONS BUILDINGS, UTILITIES, PRIM-ARY SCHOOLING AND EXTERNAL SECURITY. THE WORTH OF THESE ITEMS CANNOT BE SHREDDED OUT IN THE BELGIAN ACCOUNTING SYSTEM; HOWEVER, IT IS CONSIDERED TO BE RELATIVELY INSIG-NIFICANT.

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4. HOST NATION SUPPORT OF THE US ARMY ELEMENT CONSISTS OF DONATING THE LAND ON A RENT-FREE BASIS. NO DOLLAR VALUE CAN BE DETERMINED.

5. THE PERSONNEL OF THE ODC AND DAO ENJOY CERTAIN TAX AND CUSTOMS PRIVILEGES, E.G., TVA EXEMPTION ON ANY PERSONAL PURCHASE IN EXCESS OF 10,000 BF, BUT THESE PRIVILEGES ACCRUE TO THESE PERSONNEL BECAUSE OF THEIR DIPLOMATIC STATUS RATHER THAN THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT.

6. BERTHING AND LANDING FEES AT BELGIAN PORTS AND MILITARY AIRFIELDS ARE WAIVED, AND OFFICIAL EXPENDITURES MADE BY THESE VISITING ELEMENTS IN EXCESS OF 5,000 BF ENJOY A TVA EXEMPTION. SAVINGS IN THIS REGARD ARE INCONSEQUENTIAL.

7. USAFE OPERATES SEVEN RADIO RELAY SITES IN BELGIUM WHICH ARE RENT FREE.

8. BY MID 78, US FORCES WILL BENEFIT FROM TWO COLLOCATED OPERATING BASES (COB) IN BELGIUM AS COB NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN FINAL STAGES. USE OF COB'S DURING EXERCISES AND CRISES REPRESENT LARGE COST AVAOIDANCE WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE NECESSARY FOR US AIRCRAFT BASING.

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9. THE GOB CONTRIBUTION TO ODC BELLUX OPERATIONS FOR FY78 ($333,900) HAS NOT BEEN PAID, AND THE ENTIRE ISSUE RE-MAINS UNRESOLVED. GDS 31 DEC 84. DE TARR

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